

and Orr were picking themselves up, the camel walked docilely through the studio and took its position before a television camera.

Dr. Orr says it has been scientifically established that a camel wouldn't walk a mile for anything, at least not until it was good and ready.

#### TOMPKINS TO SHOW PICTURES

COLOR SLIDES taken on two trips into south-central Utah will be shown by Philip W. Tompkins at 2 P. M., Thursday, April 8, in Morrison Auditorium. The program will be given under the auspices of the California Botanical Club.

Tompkins, a member of the Academy, is well known for his photographs of the Southwest. Academy members will remember the outstanding program he presented here in July 1953.

This time he will show pictures taken on two separate expeditions last year. In the spring he went down the Green River from Ruby's Ranch to its junction with the Colorado; then down the Colorado to the first rapids in Cataract Canyon; then up the Colorado to Moab. While on the boat trip he made several short side trips, including a one-day stay in Goblin Valley. (Tompkins named the valley and was the first to photograph it.) Returning in the fall, he took pictures in Cannonville and its surrounding territory, and then made a pack trip through the Escalante River country.

John Thomas Howell, president of the California Botanical Club, announces that Academy members and the public are invited to attend.

#### ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETS APRIL 28

PRESTON BUTLER, physicist at the Naval Radiological Laboratory, formerly director of solar radiation observatories at Montezuma and Table Mountain, will talk to the Astronomy Section on "Temperatures of the Planets." The meeting will be at 8 P. M., Wednesday, April 28, in the Student Lecture room.

Speculation about the possibility of life on other planets requires as a starting point some knowledge of their temperatures. This in turn requires some knowledge of the amount of atmosphere on each. If there is an atmosphere—as is the case for all but Mercury and Pluto—the determination of temperature becomes very difficult. Surprisingly enough, this applies even to our own planet. Some of the ingenious ways of overcoming these obstacles to information will be discussed by Butler.

After the talk, weather permitting, the telescope on the roof will be used to observe. Leon E. Salanave will be in charge of the program.

#### NEW MEMBERS

The following members were elected by the Council at its meeting of March 11, 1954:

##### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Henry H. Brigham  
Miss Jeanne L. Bulefeld  
Mr. Samuel M. Carpenter  
Mrs. Douglas Clegg  
Mrs. Harding Clegg

Mr. Joseph Ehrman III  
Mrs. William M. Hume  
Mr. Douglas E. Peterson  
Mr. George M. Stanley  
Mr. Frederick S. Wolff  
Mr. Stephen N. Wyckoff  
Mr. Felix Ziliotto

##### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Walter Beckh  
Dr. Millard A. Gump  
Dr. Homer P. Struble

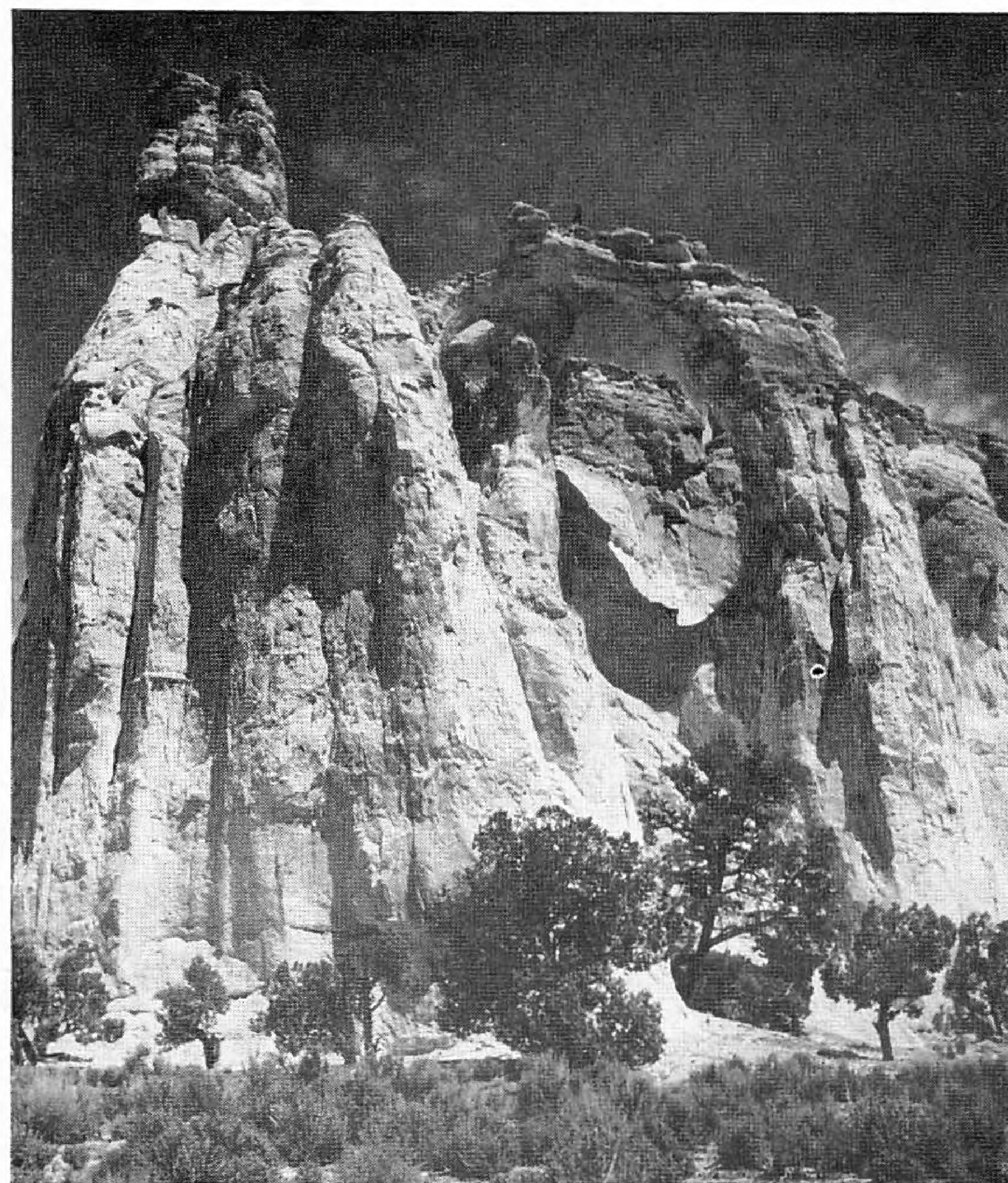
##### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Toby

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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*Photograph by Philip W. Tompkins*

Butler Valley Natural Arch near Cannonville

*(See Page 4)*

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CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO



# CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO

## April Announcement

THE REGULAR APRIL MEETING will be held at 8 P. M., Wednesday, April 7, in the Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of Sciences. Carl W. Buchheister, vice-president, National Audubon Society, will present a color film:

### "PASTURES OF THE SEA"

Some of our most valuable natural resources are to be found below, above, and beside the sea. With this film Buchheister tells of the beauty and bounty of sea pastures—turnstones performing in their inimitable way; puffins, gillémots, razor-billed auks; the storm petrel; and the amazing journeys of the Arctic tern.

Seaside plants grow strong in the spray of island soils, with plume grass, yarrow, and tall meadowrue. Fireweed, blue iris, and seaside mertensia are tucked among the rocks. Butterflies crown the harebells, thistles, and wild pasture rose.

There are animals of the sea—whales, seals, sea urchins, clams, scallops, and lobsters.

Buchheister, who was graduated from The Johns Hopkins University in 1923, is a resident of New York City. Before he began his association with the National Audubon Society he was executive secretary and treasurer of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

### CURATOR HONORED

ONE OF THE RAREST plants in California has just been named in honor of John Thomas Howell, curator, Department of Botany.

The plant, which was first named *Antirrhinum ovatum*, was discovered by Miss Alice Eastwood in June 1902 in San Luis Obispo County. It was not seen again, or at least not recognized, until a member of the Academy, Eben McMillan, found the plant in June 1948. Not being able to identify it himself, McMillan showed it to Dr. Robert T. Orr of the Department of Birds and Mammals, who brought word of it to Howell. Recognizing the plant from the description, Howell and Dr. Thomas H. Kearney, research associate in the Botany Department, left to collect specimens on the next day. After 46 years the elusive *Antirrhinum ovatum* had been rediscovered.

The new name for the plant, as published by Werner Rothmaler, Greifswald, Germany, is *Howelliella ovata*.

### TO DEDICATE EASTWOOD GROVE

MRS. ELTON S. HODGES, president, California Spring Blossom and Wildflower Association, announces that dedication ceremonies for the Alice Eastwood Grove will be held at 2 P. M., Sunday, April 25, at Prairie Creek Redwood State Park. For further information write or phone Mrs. Hodges, 5 Wawona Street, San Francisco; OVERland 1-3947.

## SPECIAL ACADEMY MEETING

DR. GEORGE GAMOW, prominent theoretical physicist, will deliver a talk at 8 P. M., Wednesday, April 21, in Morrison Auditorium. His subject, "The Evolution of the Universe," will be illustrated with lantern slides.

Dr. Gamow is spending the spring term in residence at the University of California. His appearance here is of particular interest, following that of Prof. Hermann Bondi, Trinity College, Cambridge University, who spoke last month on a similar topic but from a quite different point of view. Comparison of these divergent views will give an insight into the very lively question now under discussion among physicists and astronomers: Is the universe *finite* or *infinite* in time and space?

Gamow, who was born in Odessa in 1904, spent many years doing scientific research on the Continent, notably with Niels Bohr in Copenhagen and with Lord Rutherford at Cambridge University. Gamow was one of the first to provide a satisfactory model of the structure of the atom. He first formulated his celebrated theory of radio-active decay in 1928. In 1934 he came to this country, taking the post of professor of theoretical physics at George Washington University.

Some of his books are *The Birth and Death of the Sun*; *Biography of the Earth*; *One, Two, Three . . . Infinity*; and *Creation of the Universe*.

The public is invited.

### COULD YOU LEAD ONE TO WATER?

IF ANYONE at the Academy knows all about the habits and temperaments of animals it's Dr. Robert T. Orr, curator of birds and mammals. But he learned a few things recently as guest scientist on "Science in Action."

The video highlight of the show was to be a live camel, and a split-second time-table had been worked out for its appearance.

Carey Baldwin, director of the S. F. Zoo, arrived with the camel in a horse trailer at precisely 6:30 P. M. at the Mission Street entrance of KRON-TV. The show goes on at 7 P. M. There was plenty of time to unload the camel. He thought.

Opening the studio door and unlocking the back of the trailer, he called confidently to the camel to back out. But it was busy surveying the passing traffic.

Baldwin climbed into the trailer and pushed. The camel stood firm. Baldwin called to Orr. Then Baldwin pushed, and Orr pulled—by the tail. As steady as a pyramid stood the camel. Then it began to bellow and to roar, and to a lesser extent so did Baldwin and Orr.

At 6:45 a crowd was collecting. Ropes were attached to the camel at the bow and amidships. Three bystanders were recruited, and the five men heaved and tugged. It was now 6:55. Traffic on Mission was stalled. The sturdy ship-of-the-desert was roaring louder.

At three minutes to air time the camel suddenly quit pulling forward—camel, bystanders, and scientists tumbled down the trailer ramp. While Baldwin